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STATINTL

DEFENSE SCORED IN DODD HEARINGS

Intimidation of Witnesses Is Charged by Young of Ohio

WASHINGTON, July 14 (AP) — Senator Stephen M. Young, Democrat of Ohio, protested today what he called the attempted intimidation of witnesses in the Senate ethics committee's investigation of misconduct charges against Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut.

Senator Young told the Senate that "equally serious has been the sinister type of interrogation conducted" by John F. Sonnett, Senator Dodd's chief lawyer, in public hearings last month.

Without using Senator Dodd's name, Mr. Young said, "I hope the Senator involved in this inquiry has not been prejudiced by the actions of his counsel."

Mr. Dodd has been charged with having received gifts from Julius Klein, a West German public relations executive in return for favors for clients.

Senator Young said he would also like to request "that it be ascertained whether these cases constitute contempt of the Senate and whether the F.B.I. has investigated these charges of intimidation," especially one reported by Michael O'Hare, Mr. Dodd's former office manager.

Intimidation Charged

Mr. Young directed the Senate's attention to "continued reports of intimidation of witnesses conducted by one of the largest law firms in the United States—Cahill, Gordon, Reindel

& Ohl—which certainly should be familiar with the canons of the American Bar Association, if not the criminal laws of the United States."

As one example, Senator Young referred to news accounts of how Mr. O'Hare had said that one of the firm's lawyers, Walter J. Kennedy, had telephoned him and said:

"We just want you to know we have got a complete check on Terry Golden. It would be a shame for a lovely girl like her to have her reputation hurt in any way."

Testimony at the hearings brought out that Miss Golden, a former secretary in Mr. Dodd's office, was Mr. O'Hare's girl friend.

Senator Young said that if the accounts of Mr. Kennedy's statements to Mr. O'Hare were correct "this was a flagrant attempt to intimidate a witness."

'Indefensible Act'

"This incident," he said, "was followed by the indefensible act of a combative young man who told Mr. O'Hare, poking a finger in his chest, 'I just want to tell you one thing: When this is over I'm going to follow you to your --- grave.'"

The young man was one of Senator Dodd's sons. The Senator later apologized to the committee.

Among other things, Senator Young said:

"It is said that employers of certain witnesses have been telephoned and asked that they discharge such employees. This is the equivalent of blacklisting, which under certain circumstances is a criminal offense."

As for what he termed a "sinister type of interrogation" by Mr. Sonnett, Senator Young said the lawyer had "attempted to attack the reputations of young women witnesses by innuendo, even indulging in the improper inquiry as to whether they intended to marry certain persons."